

October 3, 2000

Last Dance:

(Bill) Clinton's Final Push for Government-Run Health Care

At a Rose Garden ceremony last week, President Clinton explained how he has been able to implement government-run health care piecemeal — despite the public's resounding rejection of "HillaryCare" — and laid out the next few steps along the way [*Federal News Service*, 9/29/00]:

You know, when Hillary and [HHS Secretary] Donna [Shalala] and I started working on this back in 1993, we proposed a solution that would have covered all Americans And it was too much for the system to accommodate at once, so we've gone back, piece by piece, trying to achieve that.

We have now the Children's Health Insurance [Program, or CHIP] . . .

We passed a bill that protects you, if you get sick or if you change jobs, from losing your health insurance . . .

The parents who need [CHIP] ought to be able to buy into the program . . .

Next, we need to deal with the 55- to 65-year-old age group.

And finally, we need to deal with the fact that there are so many of our seniors who don't have prescription drug coverage.

And we need to deal with the long-term care challenge facing our country.

And we need to pass this patients' bill of rights that we've been working on since 1994. This is all very, very important.

Government coverage for CHIP parents. Expanding Medicare to cover 55-year-olds. Government-controlled prescription drug coverage. Federalizing health insurance regulation. Whatever the specifics, every Clinton-Gore health care proposal serves the same goal: trapping Americans in a government-run health care system.

RPC staff contact: Michael F. Cannon, 224-2946